

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENTI 00770 170612Z
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 SS-15
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R 170550Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9425
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
USLO PEKING
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 770

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAIR, CH, LA
SUBJECT: SINO-LAO AVIATION AGREEMENT

REF: VIENTIANE 739

1. AN ASIAN DIPLOMAT WHO RECENTLY TALKED TO THE LAO FOREIGN MINISTER AND TO THE CHINESE AMBASSADOR HAS PROVIDED US WITH ADDITIONAL DETAILS CONCERNING THE NEW LPDR-PRC AVIATION AGREEMENT (REFTEL).

2. CHINESE AMBASSADOR HSU HUANG REPORTEDLY SAID THAT UNDER THE OLD AGREEMENT CHINESE AIRCRAFT WERE FLYING TO PHNOM PENH FROM NAN-NING, REQUIRING OVERFLIGHT OF VIETNAM FOR THE MOST DIRECT ROUTE. HOWEVER, UNDER THE TERMS OF THE NEW AGREEMENT THE FLIGHTS WOULD BE FROM K'UN-MING, THUS AVOIDING VIETNAMESE AIRSPACE WITH ONLY A SLIGHT DETOUR. HSU CONFIRMED EARLIER REPORTS THERE WERE NO PLANS FOR REGULARLY SCHEDULED CHINESE FLIGHTS INTO VIENTIANE, ALTHOUGH HE SAID THAT THE
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PAGE 02 VIENTI 00770 170612Z

AGREEMENT DID INCLUDE LANDINGS RIGHTS AT VIENTIANE.

3. LAO FOREIGN MINISTER PHOUNE SIPASEUTH REPORTEDLY CONFIRMED THE ESSENTIALS OF THE CHINESE VERSION OF THE AGREEMENT. HE ADDED THAT THE ONLY PROBLEM AT PRESENT WAS THE TECHNICAL ONE OF ASSIGNING AN ALTITUDE TO THE CHINESE FLIGHTS AS THEY PASS PAKSE, SINCE THE ORIGINAL CHINESE

REQUEST CONFLICTED WITH THE AMBER ONE ROUTE FROM HONG KONG.
PHOUNE REPORTEDLY ALSO NOTED THAT THE AGREEMENT CONCERNING
PRC-LDPR FLIGHTS WAS RECIPROCAL AND THAT IF REGULAR SERVICE
WERE INITIATED BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, LAO AVIATION
WOULD PARTICIPATE.
ROBERTS

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NNN

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